based on the utilization certificate furnished by the State Government.

Management of Water Distribution

3329. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large scale corruption and irregularities in potable water distribution in most cities across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor management of water distribution system is leading to a huge amount of wastage of water;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the water distribution across the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Ministry of Urban Development have reported that no complaint has been received by them from any of the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies (ULB) regarding large scale corruption and irregularities in distribution of potable water in cities across the country.

(b) and (c) As per report on study titled "Status of Water supply and Sanitation and Solid Waste management in Urban area" conducted by National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi under the sponsorship of Ministry of Urban Development, the unaccounted for water (UFW) mainly in Indian cities is of the order of 40-50%, while acceptable value according to Central Public Health Engineering and Environment Organisation's norms in 15%.

(d) The Ministry of Urban Development have launched a new programme namely, "Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission" (JNNURM) with an aim to encourage reforms and fast track planned development of identified cities. The focus is to be on efficiency in urban infrastructure (water supply) service delivery mechanism, community participation and accountability of ULBs. The JNNURM envisages various mandatory and obligatory reform measures. One of the mandatory reforms to be carried out by the ULBs is "Levy of reasonable user charges by ULB/Parastatals with the objective that full cost of operation and maintenance or recurring cost is collected within next seven years. However, cities/towns in North East and other special category States

may recover atleast 50% of operation and maintenance charges initially. These cities/towns should graduate to full O&M cost recovery in a phased manner".

Completion of Irrigation Project in Punjab and Maharashtra

3330. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects are running behind their original schedule as on date in Punjab and Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government are considering to invite private participation to complete such irrigation projects in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation project are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. There is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Water Resources to invite private participation to complete irrigation projects in the States. The State Government of Maharashtra is considering to invite private participation to complete such irrigation projects.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra has issued a Government Resolution in July, 2003 regarding the policy to be adopted for taking irrigation project works on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. As per this policy of the State Government various concessions are given to the prospective entrepreneurs willing to take the works on BOT basis. The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the State as per the guidelines of the programme.